

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00

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O R 172142Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5277

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1468

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5025

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI SHUM UN US

SUBJ: HUNGER STRIKE IN UN ECLA HEADQUARTERS

REF: STATE 140773

1. I CALLED ON GENERAL COVARRUBIAS, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE PRESIDENCY, AT 3:30 THIS AFTERNOON. COVARRUBIAS' POSITION IS THE ORGANIZATIONAL EQUIVALENT OF HAMILTON JORDAN'S.

2. I TOLD COVARRUBIAS THAT I WANTED TO MAKE TWO POINTS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS AND WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF HE WOULD PASS MESSAGE DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT. AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION REGARDING THE OCCUPATION OF ECLA SANTIAGO HEADQUARTERS, I STRESSED TO COVARRUBIAS THAT THE USG:

-- HOPED THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S RESPONSE TO UNSYG WALDHEIM'S CABLE WOULD BE AS POSITIVE AS POSSIBLE; AND THAT

-- THE GOC'S RESPONSE (ACTUACION") IN THIS MATTER WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR RECENTLY INITIATED FRANK AND POSITIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE GOC ON HUMAN RIGHTS--A DIALOGUE WHICH HAD AMONG ITS GOALS AN
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IMPROVEMENT IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

3. AFTER A BRIEF TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, COVARRUBIAS TOLD ME THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S REACTION TO WALDHEIM'S MESSAGE HAD BEEN ONE OF SURPRISE AND CURIOSITY. THE PRESIDENT WONDERED WHY WALDHEIM WAS WRITING TO HIM IN SUCH GENERAL AND

UNUSUAL TERMS WHEN THE GOC HAD AMBASSADORS IN NEW YORK AND GENEVA PRECISELY TO DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS WITH UN OFFICIALS. PINOCHET ALLEGEDLY EVEN DOUBTED THAT WALDHEIM HIMSELF HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MESSAGE. ACCORDINGLY, CHILE'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UN HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SEEK A CLARIFICATION FROM THE UNSYG.

4. I RESPONDED THAT REGARDLESS OF THE LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL NICETIES, THE PRESENCE OF 24 WOMEN IN ECLA'S HEAD-QUARTERS ON A HUNGER STRIKE BECAUSE OF DISAPPEARED RELATIVES WOULD CREATE A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE GOC. THE LONGER THE MATTER WENT ON THE MORE DIFFICULT THE PROBLEM WOULD BECOME. THEREFORE, IT WAS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION AS QUICKLY AND PAINLESSLY AS POSSIBLE. I POINTED OUT THAT IN THIS CONNECTION ENRIQUE IGLESIAS, THE HEAD OF ECLA, HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. I TOLD COVARRUBIAS THAT I HAD TALKED WITH IGLESIAS, THAT IGLESIAS WAS ACTIVELY AND WITH ALL GOODWILL LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT OF THE DILEMMA; AND THAT I THOUGHT IT WAS VERY MUCH IN THE GOC'S INTEREST TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH IGLESIAS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. COVARRUBIAS UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY MY FORMAL MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT, TO "INSTRUCT" THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER TO CALL IGLESIAS IN FOR DISCUSSIONS, AND TO STAY IN CONTACT WITH ME ON THE PROBLEM.

6. EARLIER IN THE DAY, IGLESIAS CAME BY FOR A BRIEF
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CHAT. HIS FERTILE MIND WAS SORTING THROUGH A VARIETY OF SOLUTIONS TO THE HUNGER STRIKE WHICH WOULD MEET SOME OF THE DEMANDS OF THE STRIKERS AND STILL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE GOC SOVEREIGNTY AND DIGNITY. IGLESIAS AND I WILL MEET AGAIN THIS EVENING.
BOYATT

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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